

S-E-C-R-E-T

## REPORT

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the Soviet authorities in Karlsborst set great store by the establishment of connections between the SED Central Committee and the SPD. The Soviets believe that those SED members who had previously been Social Democrats might influence the policies of West Germany by establishing closer connections with their Social Democrat friends in West Berlin and West Germany. In this connection, it was pointed out that Max Fechner, the previous GDR Minister of Justice, had been valued so highly by Semenov and Yudin only for the reason that he had been a former Social Democrat who might establish direct connections between the Soviets and the SPD in West Germany.

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2.

Ulbricht's prestige had dropped in Karlshorst. Comments made by Soviet authorities and discussed at meetings of the Central Committee indicated that Moscow did not fully agree with Ulbricht's infiltration policies in West Germany.

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